

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 194527
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 194527

NESCO

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: AORG, UNESCO

SUBJECT:UNESCO: MASS MEDIA: INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON
COMMUNICATIONS

REF: PARIS 23509

1. AHSER DELEON, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF COMMUNICATIONS
COMMISSION, MET YESTERDAY WITH IO DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY
DALLEY, WILLIAM HARLEY (IO/UCS) AND RICHARD FORSTER
(IO/UNESCO), FOLLOWED BY LUNCH WITH HARLEY, FORSTER, DICK
SCHMIDT (GENERAL COUNSEL OF AMERICAN SOCIETY OF NEWSPAPER
EDITORS) AND GEORGE KROLOFF (SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS
COMMITTEE). MUCH OF WHAT DELEON HAD TO SAY WAS ANTICIPATED
BY REFTEL, BUT SOME ADDITIONAL MATERIAL EMERGED THAT IS
BEING REPORTED SEPTTEL.

2. HIGHLIGHT OF DELEON'S TRIP WAS HIS LONG, PRIVATE
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PAGE 02 STATE 194527

CONVERSATION WITH JAMES RESTON OF NEW YORK TIMES, DURING
WHICH HE INVITED RESTON TO BE ONE OF TWO NORTH AMERICAN
MEMBERS OF COMMISSION. DELEON LATER REPORTED THAT RESTON
POLITELY BUT FIRMLY DECLINED, CITING HIS INFLEXIBLE
PRINCIPLE OF NEVER ASSOCIATING HIMSELF WITH ANY ENTERPRISE
ON WHICH HE MIGHT LATER WISH TO COMMENT JOURNALISTICALLY.

3. DECIDING AGAINST CONTINUING TO NEW YORK, AS EARLIER PLANNED, DELEON FLEW BACK TO PARIS LAST NIGHT TO REPORT TO DG M'BOW AND SEEK HIS APPROVAL FOR INVITING ELIE ABEL TO SERVE ON COMMISSION IN LIEU OF RESTON. (FYI: DELEON PRIVATELY INDICATED THAT ABEL, BECAUSE OF HIS BROAD, SCHOLARLY INTERESTS IN COMMUNICATIONS FIELD, HAD ALWAYS BEEN HIS FIRST CHOICE AS WELL AS THAT OF OTHER WORKING-LEVEL MEMBERS OF SECRETARIAT. END FYI.) VANCE

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